

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MANILA 13577

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, RP (ROMULO, CARLOS P.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ROMULO

REF: STATE 219314

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS MORNING SEPTEMBER 5 TO DELIVER SECRETARY'S LETTER. PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE SECRETARIES ROMULO, ENRILE, VIRATA, PATERNO, SICAT, AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ AND GENERAL ESPINO. (THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL). THIS GATHERING WAS PROBABLY IN ANTICIPATION THAT LETTER CONTAINED FORMAL U.S. ANSWER TO MARCOS AIDE-MEMOIRE.
2. AFTER READING SECRETARY'S LETTER, MARCOS SAID THAT THERE WAS SOME MISAPPREHENSION ON PART OF DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON CONCERNING MATTER OF A WRITTEN REPLY. MARCOS CONTENTS THAT HE HAS ALWAYS INSISTED REPLY SHOULD BE IN WRITING, ALTHOUGH HE POINTED OUT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT IT NEED NOT BE PUBLISHED. HE HAD SUGGESTED IT COULD BE KEPT PRIVATE UNLESS AND UNTIL BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGREED TO ITS PUBLICATION.
3. MARCOS THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WOULD BE "POINTLESS" FOR ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ TO ATTEMPT DISCUSS ISSUES IN MILITARY BASES NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT CLARIFICATION OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH PARTIES UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. THIS OBSERVATION LED TO CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, THE UPSHOT
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OF WHICH WAS THAT MARCOS IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE ROMULO

AND ROMUALDEZ TO MEET AS SCHEDULED WITH SECRETARY ON SEPTEMBER 22 PROVIDED FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS CONCERNED THE AIDE-MEMOIRE. (ROMULO OBSERVED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD "FOCUS" ON THE AIDE-MEMOIRE.) IF THE SECRETARY WAS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO PUT AN ANSWER FORMALLY IN WRITING AT THAT MEETING, MARCOS WANTED HIM TO STATE ORALLY WHAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT IN WRITING AT A LATER DATE, PRESUMABLY WHEN THE SECRETARY VISITS MANILA.

4. ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ WOULD HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS AND WOULD BE ABLE TO INDICATE IF THE PROPOSED REPLY IS ADEQUATE. IF NOT, THEY WOULD WISH "NEGOTIATE" A MORE SATISFACTORY PROPOSED REPLY. ONCE THIS SUBJECT WORKED OUT, ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED ANSWER SECRETARY'S QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE VARIOUS ISSUES AT STAKE IN THE MILITARY BASES NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IN RUMINATING ON THESE ISSUES, MARCOS SAID HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT HE AND SECRETARY COULD RESOLVE THEM ALL "IN SINGLE SETTING". HE SAID THERE WERE CERTAIN EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS, BUT HE THOUGHT ALL OF THEM WERE "TRACTABLE". AS AN ASIDE, HE MENTIONED THE NEED FOR A SATISFACTORY "QUID" FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT.

6. FINALLY, MARCOS TURNED AGAIN TO SECRETARY'S LETTER AND SAID THAT, SINCE ROMULO WOULD BE IN U.S. FOR SOME TIME, IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT TO PLAN ON MORE THAN ONE MEETING WITH SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK. HE STRESSED THAT HE WOULD BE PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS COMING REFERENDUM FROM NOW UNTIL OCTOBER 16. THEREFORE, HE COULD NOT RPT NOT USEFULLY RECEIVE THE SECRETARY IN MANILA UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 16. HE SUGGESTED MORE PRECISE TIMING OF SECRETARY'S TRIP COULD TAKE PLACE WHEN ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ MEET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON.

7. I SAID WOULD CONVEY ALL FOREGOING TO SECRETARY AND ASSUMED CONDITIONS MARCOS LAID OUT FOR WASHINGTON MEETING WERE SATISFACTORY, SINCE THEY SEEMED TO COINCIDE WITH SECRETARY'S OWN THINKING. MARCOS CONCURRED, AND SAID HE WOULD SEND ME A FORMAL REPLY TO SECRETARY'S
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LETTER SOON.

8. COMMENT: I THINK IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT WASHINGTON MEETING IS BACK ON TRACK AND ASSUME THAT "CONDITIONS" SUGGESTED ARE ACCEPTABLE. THERE IS ALWAYS, OF COURSE, THE POSSIBILITY THAT NEW HOOKERS WILL BE THROWN INTO THE FORMAL LETTER OF REPLY. BARRING NEW COMPLICATIONS, I BELIEVE WE CAN PROCEED AS PLANNED. I WILL HAVE FURTHER

SUGGESTIONS ON TACTICS IN A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.

SULLIVAN

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